

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fireplace, comprising:
an enclosure defining a combustion chamber;
a backlighting system positioned at a bottom back portion of the enclosure and including at least one light source to shine light directly upon ~~components~~ a rear panel of the fireplace; and
~~a control system~~ a sensor positioned in the fireplace and operably connected to the backlighting system wherein the light from the light source provides aesthetic lighting upon the rear panel when no flames or heat are generated or simulated in the combustion chamber as sensed by the sensor; and
~~a sensor positioned in the combustion chamber and operably coupled to the control system, wherein the sensor senses a state of the fireplace and the control system controls the backlighting system depending on the state of the fireplace.~~
2. (Original) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the enclosure includes a lower panel defining an opening in the back portion of the combustion chamber, and wherein the light source is positioned at least partially below the lower panel so that the light from the light source shines through the opening into the combustion chamber.
3. (Original) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the backlighting system is positioned within the enclosure so as not to be visible through an opening defined by the combustion chamber.
4. (Original) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of a back panel of the enclosure defines a lattice structure, and wherein the light source is configured to shine the light on the lattice structure.
5. (Original) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the backlighting system includes more than one light source positioned at the back portion of the enclosure.

6. (Original) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the light source is configured to withstand high temperature generated by the fireplace.
7. (Original) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the light source includes a halogen bulb and a ceramic socket.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) A fireplace, comprising:
an enclosure defining a combustion chamber, the enclosure including a plurality of ledges formed by a brick design such that a combination of a rear panel and a side panel generally form a lattice structure; and
a backlighting system positioned at a bottom back portion of the enclosure and including at least one light source to shine light directly upon ~~components~~ the lattice structure of the fireplace wherein the backlighting system is configured to provide a constant aesthetic lighting upon the lattice structure when no flames or heat are generated or simulated in the combustion chamber ~~modulate an intensity of the light provided by the light source based on an intensity of a flame generated in the fireplace.~~
10. (Previously Presented) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the control system is configured to turn on the light source when a natural fire is not being simulated within the fireplace.
11. (Previously Presented) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the control system is configured to turn on the light source when a natural fire is being simulated within the fireplace.
12. (Previously Presented) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the sensor is a photocell module and wherein the photocell module turns the backlighting system on and off depending on an amount of light in the enclosure of the fireplace.

13. (Previously Presented) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the sensor is a photocell module and wherein the photocell module turns the backlighting system on and off depending on an amount of light outside of the fireplace.

14. (Previously Presented) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the control system further includes a manual control that is manually controlled by a user of the fireplace.

15. (Currently Amended) A fireplace, comprising:

an enclosure defining a combustion chamber and an open front, the enclosure including at least a lower panel, two side panels and a back panel the side panels and the back panel forming a plurality of ledges;

a burner positioned adjacent to the lower panel;

a log set positioned adjacent to the burner;

a backlighting system positioned between the log set and the back panel of the enclosure, the system including a light source to shine light directly upon components of the fireplace, including at least the back panel, wherein the light source provides aesthetic lighting on at least the back panel and the plurality of ledges when no flames are being generated in the combustion chamber[[;]]

~~a control system positioned in the fireplace and operably connected to the backlighting system; and~~

~~a sensor positioned in the combustion chamber and operably coupled to the control system, wherein the sensor senses a state of the fireplace and the control system controls the backlighting system depending on the state of the fireplace.~~

16. (Original) The fireplace of claim 15, wherein the enclosure includes a lower panel defining an opening in the back portion of the combustion chamber, and wherein the light source is positioned at least partially below the lower panel so that the light from the light source shines through the opening into the combustion chamber.

17. (Original) The fireplace of claim 15, wherein at least a portion of the back panel of the enclosure defines a lattice structure, and wherein the light source is positioned to shine the light on the lattice structure.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The fireplace of claim 15, wherein the light source is positioned adjacent to a burner of the fireplace.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of providing backlighting for a fireplace, comprising:
providing an enclosure defining a combustion chamber and an open front, the enclosure including at least a lower panel, two side panels, and a back panel, the side panels and the back panel forming a plurality of ledges, the combustion chamber configured to contain flames, heat, or simulated flame;

providing a log set positioned in the enclosure;

positioning a backlighting system including a light source in a back portion of the enclosure behind the log set, the light source shining light directly on the plurality of ledges wherein the light source provides an aesthetic illumination of the ledges when no flames, heat or simulated flames are generated in the combustion chamber;

~~placing a sensor in the combustion chamber and connecting the sensor to a control system;~~

~~sensing a state of the fireplace with the control system; and~~

~~controlling the backlighting system depending on the state of the fireplace whereby the backlighting system shines light from the light source onto the back panel of the enclosure.~~

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of positioning the backlighting system further comprises:

defining an aperture in the lower panel of the enclosure; and

positioning the light source so that the light shines through the aperture and into the enclosure.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of providing the enclosure further comprises:

forming a lattice structure on at least a portion of the back panel of the enclosure; and

positioning the light source to shine the light on the lattice structure.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising modulating the light source of the backlighting system depending on a state of a flame generated in the combustion chamber.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of positioning the backlighting system further comprises positioning the backlighting system adjacent to a burner of the fireplace.

26. (Previously Presented) The fireplace of claim 9, further comprising a photocell module coupled to the backlighting system, wherein the photocell module turns the backlighting system on and off depending on an amount of light in the enclosure of the fireplace.

27. (Previously Presented) The fireplace of claim 9, further comprising a photocell module coupled to the backlighting system, wherein the photocell module turns the backlighting system on and off depending on an amount of light outside of the fireplace.